

What is claimed is:

1. A distribution method comprising:
receiving orders from ones of a group of purchasers for delivery to a delivery site associated with said group of purchasers during a pre-arranged time period associated with said group of purchasers; and
transporting goods associated with said orders to said delivery site for pick-up by said ones of said group of purchasers.
2. The distribution method of claim 1 wherein the orders are received via the internet.
3. The distribution method of claim 1 wherein the transporting of goods are by dedicated delivery vehicles.
4. The distribution method of claim 3 wherein the orders are received via the internet.
5. The distribution method of claim 1 further comprising transporting goods from the delivery site to a secondary delivery site.
6. The distribution method of claim 1 wherein the pick-up is during a time period that is pre-arranged relative to the delivery site and not pre-arranged by ones of the group of purchasers.
7. A distribution method comprising the steps of:
establishing an interface for the selection and ordering of goods;
establishing at least one selected collective delivery site that is convenient for a particular group of prospective purchasers;
taking orders from members of the group of purchasers for delivery to the delivery site during a pre-arranged time period; and
delivering the orders by dedicated delivery mechanism to the delivery site for pick up by the customers during the pre-arranged time period.

8. The method as defined in claim 7 wherein a plurality of selected delivery points are established by pre-arrangement with a plurality of companies and organizations having numerous members and employees.
9. The method as defined in claim 7 wherein the dedicated delivery mechanism are trucks.
10. The method as defined in claim 7 wherein the goods are groceries.
11. A distribution system comprising:
 - a delivery site associated with a group of purchasers;
 - an order center to receive orders from ones of said group of purchasers for delivery to the delivery site during a pre-arranged time period associated with said group of purchasers;
 - a vehicle to transport goods associated with said orders to said delivery site for pick-up by said ones of said group of purchasers.
12. The distribution system of claim 11 wherein the orders are received via the internet.
13. The distribution system of claim 11 wherein the vehicle is a dedicated delivery vehicle.
14. The distribution system of claim 13 wherein the orders are received via the internet.
15. The distribution system of claim 13 wherein the vehicle includes an identifier of an entity associated with the delivery site.
16. The distribution system of claim 11 further comprising a second vehicle to transport selected ones of said goods from the delivery site to at least one secondary delivery site.
17. The distribution system of claim 11 wherein the pick-up is during a time period that is pre-arranged relative to the delivery site and not pre-arranged by ones of the group of purchasers.
18. A distribution method comprising:

receiving goods associated with orders, said order including a selected pre-arranged delivery point, the pre-arranged delivery point being associated with a customer associated with the order but not pre-arranged by said customer; and

delivering said goods to the pre-arranged delivery point for customer pickup.

19. The distribution method of claim 18 wherein said delivering said goods is during a pre-arranged time period.

20. The distribution method of claim 19 further comprising receiving return goods at said pre-arranged delivery point during said pre-arranged time period.

21. The distribution method of claim 18 further comprising:
providing to at least one supplier at least one request for said goods in response to said orders.

22. The distribution method of claim 21 wherein said delivering said goods is during a pre-arranged time period.

23. The distribution method of claim 18 wherein the goods are received from a goods aggregation system.

24. The distribution method of claim 23 wherein said delivering said goods is during a pre-arranged time period.

25. A delivery system comprising:
at least one transport vehicle to receive goods associated with an order at a first site and to deliver said goods to at least one pre-arranged delivery site for customer pickup, the pre-arranged delivery site being associated with a customer associated with the order but not pre-arranged by the customer.

26. The delivery system of claim 25 wherein said at least one transport vehicle is to deliver said goods during a pre-arranged time period.

27. The delivery system of claim 26 further comprising a station to receive return goods at said selected pre-arranged delivery site during said pre-arranged time period.
28. The delivery system of claim 26 further comprising an order interface for receiving an order from a customer at said pre-arranged delivery site during said pre-arranged time period.
29. The delivery system of claim 26 wherein the first site is a goods aggregation system.
30. The delivery system of claim 25 wherein the first site is a goods aggregation system.
31. The delivery system of claim 25 wherein said at least one transport vehicle further comprises an order interface for receiving another order from said customer.
32. The delivery system of claim 31 wherein said at least one transport vehicle is to deliver said goods during a pre-arranged time period.
33. A distribution method comprising:
receiving a plurality of orders, each order indicative of a package of goods associated with a customer;
receiving a plurality of groups of packaged goods, each packaged goods including the goods related to an order, each group including packaged goods having a common pre-arranged destination delivery point for pickup by the customer associated with the order; and
allocating a transport vehicle for each pre-arranged destination delivery point.
34. The distribution method of claim 33 wherein the allocating a transport vehicle includes selecting a transport vehicle from a group of transport vehicles of different storage volumes based on the volume of the groups of packaged goods.
35. A delivery system comprising:
a receiving site to receive a plurality of groups of packaged goods, each packaged goods including the goods related to an order, each order indicative of a package of goods associated

with a customer, each group including packaged goods having a common pre-arranged destination delivery site for pickup by the customer associated with the order; and

at least one transport vehicle to deliver to each pre-arranged destination delivery site groups of packaged goods assigned to the at least one transport vehicle.

36. The delivery system of claim 35 wherein a transport vehicle is allocated to deliver ones of said groups based on a storage volume based on a volume of the groups of packaged goods.

37. A method for processing an order for goods, comprising:
receiving an order for purchase of goods from a customer; and
providing order information and destination information to a delivery system, the destination information including a pre-arranged delivery point being associated with a customer associated with the order but not pre-arranged by the customer.

38. The method of claim 37 further comprising providing user interface information for communication with the customer.

39. The method of claim 37 further comprising receiving payment for said order from said customer.

40. An order center for processing an order for goods, comprising:
a communication interface for receiving an order for purchase of goods from a customer;
and

an order processor for providing order information and destination information to a delivery system, the destination information including a pre-arranged delivery point being associated with a customer associated with the order but not pre-arranged by the customer.

41. The order center of claim 40 whereas the order processor provides user interface information via the communication interface for communication with the customer.

42. The order center of claim 40 further comprising:

a website manager for providing website information associated with catalog of goods to the customer.

43. A method comprising:

receiving order information and delivery destination information associated with a plurality of customer orders, the delivery destination information includes one of at least one pre-arranged delivery points associated with a customer associated with the order but not pre-arranged by the customer;

generating a plurality of packaged goods associated with said order information;
grouping ones of the plurality of packaged goods having a common delivery destination;

and

assigning said groups of packaged goods to delivery vehicles based on said common delivery destinations.

44. The method of claim 43 further comprising:

receiving return goods provided to the delivery vehicles at said common delivery destinations; and

processing return goods for shipment to source of return goods or restocking of return goods.

45. The method of claim 43 further comprising:

ordering from at least one supplier goods associated with said plurality of customer orders.

46. The method of claim 45 wherein said receiving order information and said ordering from at least one supplier occur within a 24 hour period, and said assigning said groups of package goods includes assigning said groups of packaged goods to delivery vehicles for delivery to said at least one pre-arranged delivery points during a pre-arranged time period.

47. A goods processing system comprising:

a goods tracking management system to generate packing instructions for a plurality of packaged goods in response to received order information and delivery destination information

associated with a plurality of customer orders, the delivery destination information includes one of at least one pre-arranged delivery points associated with a customer associated with the order but not pre-arranged by the customer; and

a goods allocation system for allocating packaged ones of said plurality of packaged goods to groups of packaged goods having a common delivery destination and assigning said groups of packaged goods to delivery vehicles based on said common delivery destinations.

48. The goods processing system of claim 47 further comprising:

a return management system for receiving return goods provided to the delivery vehicles at said common delivery destinations and for processing return goods for shipment to source of return goods or restocking of return goods.

49. The goods processing system of claim 47 wherein the goods tracking management system further generates an order to at least one supplier for goods associated with said plurality of customer orders.

50. The goods processing system of claim 49 wherein the goods tracking management system further receives said order information and provides said order to at least one supplier within a 24 hour period, and said goods allocation system further assigns said groups of packaged goods to said delivery vehicles for delivery to said at least one pre-arranged delivery points during a pre-arranged time period.

51. The goods processing system of claim 47 further comprising at least one dedicated supplier storage area for storing goods associated with a supplier and wherein the goods tracking management system further providing said packaging instructions to include goods from said at least one dedicated supplier storage area in response to order information received from said supplier associated with said dedicated supplier storage area.

52. A method comprising:

analyzing the number of people that transit a target location during a time period;
analyzing purchasing characteristics of said people relative to a class of goods; and

selecting the target location as a delivery site in the event that said number of people exceeds a predetermined threshold and said purchasing characteristics collectively meet a predetermined threshold.

53. A method comprising:

selecting a group of persons having a common characteristic associated with a region during a time interval;

establishing at least one selected delivery point in said region; and

receiving orders for goods from ones of said group of persons for delivery to the delivery site for pickup by said ones of said group of persons during a pre-arranged time period of said time interval.

54. A method for processing an order for goods, comprising:

receiving an order for purchase of goods from a customer; and

providing order information and destination information to a goods aggregation system, the destination information including a pre-arranged delivery point being associated with a customer associated with the order but not pre-arranged by the customer.

55. The method of claim 54 further comprising providing user interface information for communication with the customer.

56. The method of claim 54 further comprising receiving payment for said order from said customer.

57. An order center for processing an order for goods, comprising:

a communication interface for receiving an order for purchase of goods from a customer; and

an order processor for providing order information and destination information to a goods aggregation system, the destination information including a pre-arranged delivery point being associated with a customer associated with the order but not pre-arranged by the customer.

58. The order center of claim 57 whereas the order processor provides user interface information via the communication interface for communication with the customer.

59. The order center of claim 57 further comprising:
a website manager for providing website information associated with catalog of goods to the customer.

60. A distribution method comprising:
receiving orders from ones of a group of purchasers for delivery to a delivery site associated with said group of purchasers and not pre-arranged with said group of purchasers; and
transporting goods associated with said orders to said delivery site for pick-up by said ones of said group of purchasers.

61. A distribution method comprising:
establishing an interface for the selection and ordering of goods;
establishing at least one selected collective delivery point that is convenient for a particular group of prospective purchasers and not pre-arranged with said group of purchasers;
taking orders from members of the group of purchasers for delivery to the delivery site;
and
delivering the orders by dedicated delivery mechanism to the delivery site for pick up by the customer.